



January 11, 1963

Mr. Melvin Belli  
Attorney At Law  
Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, California

RE: JACK RUBY

Dear Mr. Belli:

This is a report on examination of above-named defendant seen at the County Jail, Dallas, Texas on December 21 and 22. He was interviewed a total of eight hours in company with Dr. Manfred Guttmacher, and part of the time by the undersigned, alone. The relatives, consisting of one sister and two brothers, and a roommate were interviewed additionally.

The prisoner was cooperative. He gave all information freely, no drugs were used during the interview which was held in an attorney's room in the County Jail.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:

Prisoner is a man of medium height and appears to be the age given; namely, 52 years. He is well developed muscularly, his hair is thinning, teeth in excellent condition. There are no obvious signs of heart or lung pathology, no tender areas in the abdomen. There is an amputation of the last joint of the index finger of the left hand.

Neurological examination was done briefly. Reflexes sensation within normal limits, no incoordination: balance mechanism normal, pupillary reaction normal, no cranial nerve defects. His speech had a slight lisp but the words were well articulated.

The history comprises three sections; one relates to his family history and background, the second relates to his own personal life and reactions, and the third part of the history

covers the offense itself and the immediate reaction surrounding it.

HISTORY:

I. FAMILY HISTORY:

The facts of the family history are significant. They will be given only where pertinent in the evaluation of this man, especially as they illustrate the cultural and social background. Prisoner's father and mother were born in Russo-Poland, nee - Rubinstein and Rakowsky, respectively. They came to this country after the birth of the second child and established themselves in Chicago, Illinois. The father had a definite Personality Disorder. He is described as having been in the Russian Army, served in the Russo-Jap War. He seemed to have absorbed the spirit of his Russian soldier comrades, being called "Cossack" by his family and enjoying the traditional swaggering, brusque aggressive attitude of this type of person. He drank excessively and boisterously. At home he was domineering and was in constant turmoil with his wife, being cruel and abusive to her. The children remember hiding under the bed when he shouted, and he is said to have broken the finger of one of the boys when disciplining him, and generally to be demanding and noisy. In early life he worked as a carpenter and provided for the family but always just one step removed from poverty. The mother and father separated several times, and then permanently when the prisoner was about twelve years old.

The mother was a redhead - the only one in the family, who aspired to a higher level of social life. Some of the fighting was over her interest in improving the family and much of it over the father's drinking as well as his name-calling and abusiveness. The mother had ten

pregnancies with eight living children. She herself stood up to her husband, but was a milder individual who spoke of having higher tastes: she liked to say her family was edel (a German word meaning "noble"). After the separation the mother was hospitalized in the Elgin State Hospital. The apparent diagnosis was In Evolutional Depression. She was committed to the hospital but returned home apparently after 8-9 months much improved. The family resumed, some living with the mother and some with the father.

The mother died subsequently several years after her hospitalization. The children, at the time of the separation, were sent to foster homes for periods varying from a summer to a year, thus being scattered throughout the Chicago area. They all felt the pressure; they united complaining of the pressure of poverty, the pressure of constant turmoil in the house, some siding with the father but most with the mother.

After the dispersion of the children, they went their separate ways, but were at least potentially interested in each other. The sister, Eva, and the prisoner were especially close. The prisoner and the sister, Eva, agreed that they inherited the father's "explosive" tendencies, although none were alcoholic. The father died at 88, and in his later years was supported by the children. The home had no central influence, except perhaps the desire to escape from poverty. The children made a moderate success in life mostly in business, the older one being the only individual to be educated beyond high school.

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II. PRISONER'S PERSONAL HISTORYMEDICAL HISTORY

The prisoner himself was physically well in childhood, the only illness he had was Scabies as a child. He received a head injury when he was short of 20, being hit by a gun handle in an altercation in Chicago. He was jailed for two days, recovered without incident, no charge was preferred. A second head injury occurred in 1941 when he was 30. That time in the course of a fight he was hospitalized for two days at the Edgewater Hospital with a diagnosis of concussion of the brain. The injury was accompanied by a blackout, but no further symptoms. As an adult he engaged in a fight in which the last joint of the forefinger of the left hand was bitten to the bone: amputation of the last phalanx was performed. The prisoner had gonorrhea on four occasions, but has not history of syphilis. He was treated successfully at the time of each infection.

The prisoner has no complaints except that he has a breathing impediment due to a recent bronchitis. He has no complaints of headache, dizziness, no pain and no discomfort. Under the heading of complaints, there is a curious attitude toward food which, while not a symptom, may be described here. The prisoner has always been a crank about food, he also has been excessively worried about colds and minor illnesses. For some months preceeding the offense he had a cough which increased in intensity to the point where he thought he had pneumonia. He went to a physician, was given antibiotics and cough syrup and the prisoner gained the impression he had pneumonia.

In addition, he took a drug called Preluden

which is designed for weight reducing. He took this for a period of almost two months, one a day up to the time of the offense. Prior to that some years ago he took a drug called Ambar. Both of these drugs made him think clearer. He felt better, "It makes you a positive thinker." These drugs do have an element akin to Benzedrine but the prisoner's report is beyond the claims of the drugs. He relates how he used to buy or receive drugs from pharmaceutical agents to sell or give to his friends so that people could "share his happiness." He makes a great deal of Magic Menu and talked about using Larsen's CRD for a month or more prior to the offense. The drug caused his hair to thin but it made him feel good, he didn't care about anything. It is difficult to say, but apparently for several years he has taken various kinds of food supplements or stimulating drugs - all this in the presence of excellent health and physical vigor.

#### SCHOOL HISTORY

The school history indicates that the prisoner early lost interest in school: he was a truant and spent his time thinking of ways of making money. He managed to get to the first year of high school, but was a drop-out thereafter. He would try to sell shopping bags on a street corner, do other odd jobs in his teens to make a few dollars. All the children contributed their childhood earnings to the home, working after school but the prisoner was especially disinterested in school work.

#### INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

His industrial record was characterized by working as a union agent, a salesman, dealer in novelty items, a huckster, both before and after the army service. However, after his

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army service and discharge, he seemed to aspire to more permanent types of work. His army record indicated three years as a PFC in the U.S. Air Force. He had state-side duty and was given an Honorable discharge after three years of service. During this period he had one fight with a sergeant whom he knocked down, but no courts-martial.

Most of his work career, until he got to Dallas was in selling trinkets, selling tickets and refreshments at sports events, doing house to house canvassing selling subscriptions, operating a mail order business, selling salt and pepper sets; in fact he energetically made a living wherever he could, changing jobs frequently.

At one time he had business relations with a man who was convicted of a crime and sentenced to eight years in State Prison. At that time he felt he was suspect to being tied in to the Chicago Syndicate. "They wanted to run me out of town."

While in Dallas, the prisoner was in contact with gamblers with whom he tried to arrange all sorts of big deals, the details which were never very clear cut. He stated he saw various officials, as the Mayor, offering to sell something or make a "proposition". Aside from the two clubs he operated in Dallas, and the one that failed (Silver Spur), the history is obscure as to actual business ventures in which he was engaged.

As a reflection of his business capacity, one can interpret that he was considered somewhat unreliable. Since he makes a great deal of his competitors in the strip-tease business taking advantage of him, one can interpret a paranoid

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tendency which may have caused him to be regarded as a bungler in business.

However, it must be realized that he did manage to operate clubs, to be involved in deals involving thousands of dollars, and to have risen a little economically since he was in Dallas. All this indicates his chronic over-activity and constant flight of thinking.

#### MENTAL HISTORY

There were three depressions in his life. The first occurred in 1940 when he became depressed following the killing of one Leon, a friend, during a union altercation. The prisoner was so hurt and became heartsick over this that he mourned for weeks and months, even adopted "Leon" into his own name. No medical help was sought but he gradually came out of the depression.

A second depression of a more serious nature occurred in 1952 following failure of a business i.e. the Silver Spur. Apparently his backers had lost as high as \$25,000 in his venture. At any rate, he became overcome with suicidal feelings, developed strong apathy, holed up in a hotel room and for two months was actually deeply depressed. On further questioning, it appears that he did no work for about five months at this time, so that the depression was more than despondency. During this time his brother gave him emotional support, and he finally came out of it spontaneously. No medical aid was solicited.

The third depressive episode occurred after the death of the President (See below). A fourth mental (?) episode occurred while watching Barney Ross, the fighter: When Barney was knocked down the prisoner fainted. For this he has no explanation.

From a standpoint of personality, the prisoner described himself as impetuous, very sensitive to slights or to any implication that he is not as good as the next man. He has an acrophobia (fear of high places) and he is aware that he cannot take orders. He is a scrapper and on many occasions has fought men in the bar to maintain order, has fearlessly knocked guns out of their hands, beat men up and is considered to be competent as a bar room brawler. He is aware that he is excitable and says his chief difficulty is he wants to be accepted and cannot stand to be disliked. Once he vaulted over the bar to disarm a man. At other times, he fought customers, stopped the show to reprimand customers, acted impulsively and excitedly.

The sexual life started at 18 with sexual contacts, he had girl friends two of whom he was in love with. He was engaged to the second for ten years and had sexual relations but never married. In recent years he has been attracted to the strippers he has worked with and has had many "one night stands". He denies homosexuality, but is extremely sensitive should anybody accuse him of that and is very defensive. In relation to his inner sexual life, his potency has been interfered with by the gonorrhea attacks, and he admits that he must adopt the feminine position at times during intercourse. His handling of sexuality is flippant, more the nature of a bragging youth, except in the case of the girls with whom he was in love.

The outstanding personality characteristics, in the prisoner's opinion, are his conceit, his intolerance towards humiliation and his liberality and loyalty to friends. In this report his siblings relate how generous he was to everybody and how frenzied his generosity was when somebody was injured or killed accidentally. The picture presented by family and himself is that of a hyperactive busybody with good intentions. The



his tears. He felt the world had ended. He left the newspaper building, he went to his club, "I felt like a nothing person", he felt he didn't want to go on living. "My first thought was to close the club, I was afraid I would crack up. Such a great person, and then to be snuffed out". He was in a daze all afternoon, he called his sister, she called back, he called Al Graber in Fort Worth. He went to a delicatessen, he wanted to get home to Eva, he bought a tremendous amount of Kosher food. "I wanted to get drunk on Kosher food." He made calls about whether he should close his place, what his competitors were doing about it. He went home to Eva. When he arrived home his sister cried and she carried on.

He called a Dr. J., who later said he sounded ill on the phone. He called his old girl friend. He was a different person according to informants. The prisoner thought of going to the synagogue, he made calls about when the services would start. He got there in the middle of a sermon. He cried and the rest of the parishioners cried. He was concerned whether other clubs had closed. By this time he had heard the details about Oswald. He didn't think much about the man. He felt a wave of sorrow for Mrs. Kennedy and the children and what a wonderful man Kennedy was, and what a disgrace . . . "I just wanted to help someone". He went to another delicatessen. "I wanted to bring sandwiches to somebody. So I called the police who were my friends." He called radio station KLIF and the station manager's home. He felt money meant nothing to him.

He took the second batch of sandwiches to the police station. No one challenged him. There were police and newsmen, a swarm of people there. His excitement mounted, he helped the police in informing the newsmen who were present. He went to the Assembly room. Oswald was at one far corner mumbling. He felt "I was in." "I didn't want to miss

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out . . ." No feeling had set in yet about Oswald. "It was a field day for me." He was elated, excited. "Nothing like this ever happened in my life." This was on Friday evening, November 22, 1963.

He began to worry about the posters asking for the impeachment of Judge Warren. He was overwhelmed by the hatred displayed. Later that evening he arrived at his own apartment. Early in the morning (11:23) he called his flunky to tell him to bring down a camera, and he photographed the Warren impeachment poster. He didn't want to be "a national hero" but he thought public notice should be taken. Then he was told the Wiseman ad had a black border. It sounded sinister. He was full of fear, excitement, panic, depression. His roommate recalled the incident clearly - his excitement about the Warren poster, the prisoner's constant talk of the assassination. The roommate, George Senator, noted that he was not only "gone" but "sad gone". He went to check the post office box in the Wiseman ad. He routed out the clerk. The excitement was mounting. This occurred on November 23, 1963.

The morning of the 24th he went to send \$25 to one of his workers at Western Union. He had heard that Oswald would be transferred at 10:00. It was now 11:00 A.M., he talked to a neighbor for ten minutes and drove to the place where Kennedy had been shot. He wanted to look at the wreaths there. There were TV people and crowds so he went on, assuming that Oswald had already been in the County Jail. He passed the police station (it was much past 11:00 A.M.), he parked his car and walked down the ramp. "Curiosity got the best of me." He saw a crowd at the base of the ramp, he walked unchallenged up to the point where the down and up ramp meet at the precise moment Oswald was being taken out of the exit. In that moment he was standing unattended face to face with Oswald, about eight feet away. His gun had been carried in his pocket

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for some time since he had always large amounts of money on him, in this case \$1600.00 in cash. It flashed through his mind as he saw Oswald that Oswald was "smirking, cunning, a commie, a rat ...". He took another stride, his hand in his pocket (by this time he was within two feet of Oswald), the next thing he knows he is on the ground with men over him. He does not remember saying what he is said to have said; he recalls saying, "You don't have to beat my brains out, I'm Jack Ruby." He felt curiously relieved while he was wondering why he was on the ground.

From then on throughout the interrogation his tension decreased. He had no thought of murder, of the consequences of it, until he got in the cell later. He never thought of Oswald and his family.

In retrospect the episode in the Assembly room of the police station made him think he was "looking on history" and as he stood on a ledge he thought, "I am above everybody. They cannot move me." He felt like a "big guy". He also had a strong feeling that he was in with the police, he was a "right guy".

#### EXAMINATION - MENTAL

The prisoner talked excitedly but with concentration. He started the interview by discussing his involvement with a deal in Cuba with one Mack Willey, a gambler, and explained how this was a chance to make a quick dollar and had no relation to the Communists. His speech was rapid, expressive and obviously full of malapropisms. He talked about Willey having "lots of class", how he learned to eat and to live from this gentleman. His manner was dramatic with occasional flashes of aggressiveness. He related how he was known as the "tough Jew that Mack Willey knew ... he was a live one." His talk was hyperbolic, extremely circumstantial, with the

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greatest of detail. His manner was presumptuous, at time dominating the interview.

His speech was poured out over six hours, it was interrupted by periods of intensity in which his eyes welled up with tears: this occurred when talking about the President and the Kennedy family and the racial question. At intervals he would look suspiciously at the examiners and ask, "Who sent you?" His description of his food fads and his way of life was queer for a man of fifty-two, especially talking to doctors. He discussed drug effects such as Preludin, with considerable presumption as if he was trained medically to a degree. There were slight feminine mannerisms present as he talked and an obvious egocentricity.

It was difficult to get any one point settled during the interviews. He bragged about his muscles his toughness "for a Jew", his alternating complaint of being a "foreigner in Texas and a representative of the Jewish people" as well as dilating on his acceptance as a toughie in Dallas, "but I am not a hood. I am a clean person." His material dealt with his aggressiveness, the fights he had, shoot ups, of how he manages the unruly customers in his club, his physical fitness and intolerance of insolence.

#### PSYCHIATRIC ANALYSIS

1. This prisoner's instability is severe enough to consider him to fall in the Psychopathic Personality class. In addition to the instability, there is a definite inadequacy of makeup which resulted in an adjustment in life which had to be supported by constant hypomanic behavior. Without the defenses of over-loyalty, of hyperactivity, of expansiveness, constant promotion of new interests, he never would have been able to maintain his ego. He, in fact, was a psychological failure although this failure did not present itself to him, constantly. The three episodes of depression were evidence of his

being unable to maintain an ego balance. These depressions are definitely in the realm of psychosis.

2. His speech indicates this constant striving after aspirations of a higher life with a basic inadequacy. For example, he talks about wanting to be with "cultured people." He likes "lots of class" He says, "I believe in righteousness". But with all this he uses phrases that indicate a lack of judgment, a lack of understanding that there must be mental preparation for a cultured life. He resembles Cleckley's Semantic Dementia, a condition where the words have no relation to the deeds of the patient. In talking about his girl friend, to whom he was engaged for ten years, he said, "She was a clean, moral girl . . . but you must get promiscuous after ten years". In talking about handling some rough customers in his bar he said, "I told them I'll show you what muscle is". In talking about his feelings about the anti-Kennedy whispering campaign, he said .. "He is one of ours . . . inwardly he was a representative of the Jewish people". In praising his placing of ads for the newspaper he said, "I know the semantics of words". In speaking about his impulses to buy somebody food, he said, "I wanted to get drunk on Kosher food". In speaking about his sister's mourning when they cried together he said, "She was contagious to me". The significance of this and many other phrases is in itself indication of an actual intellectual disorder which is not readily visible on the surface, since in a rapid flow of speech the prisoner can cover it up. It is note-worthy that his actual mental level clinically is average, although the psychometric examination will more specifically pinpoint this.

3. The emotional reaction of the prisoner to the President and his family deserves careful consideration. There is no doubt that he was depressed beyond that experienced by most of the population of this country at the time of this

assassination. The prisoner's description of the President, of Mrs. Kennedy, of the former's charm and manner cannot be reproduced in words here: Essentially, it was the speech of a man in love with another man. It was a love that passed beyond a rational appreciation of a great man, coming out of the unconscious. The prisoner said, "This is the end of my life" when the President died, and in so doing he expressed more than mourning.

His hatred of Oswald was also determined out of his unconscious. The expression on his face when he spoke of him - bespoke the evidence of a psychological conflict within the prisoner. George Senator, his roommate put it precisely when he said about Jack's condition on November 22 and 23, "His voice was different, his look was different, he aged ten years that day" One can reconstruct this complex psychological depression by saying that the prisoner was torn by his unconscious love for the President and unconscious hatred for Oswald. Nothing of these feelings were known to him - only that he was depressed beyond measure and disturbed beyond his previous experience.

4. The murder was committed under the surge of conscious hate and the unconscious conflicts described above. As a man of quick movements, quick reflexes, the shooting was automatic and instinctive. This condition is well known among individuals of the Epileptic Constitution or the Aggressive Psychopathic type, ~~especially~~ amounts to a FUGUE STATE where consciousness is impaired and physical acts are consummated in the patient's usual manner of behavior occur without conscious thought. One sees this among boxers who fight on automatically after being knocked out on their feet. One sees it in head injuries: One sees it in unstable persons where irritable brain tissue allows the emergence of aggressive impulses. Dr. Karl Menninger has described this as "episodic, impulsive, aggressive dyscontrol". Others have simply described



it as a fugue state. This examiner has seen it in many cases of murder; e.g. (State vs. Hoover; 54 So. 2d. 130. Louisiana).

To sum up:

- I. The unconscious factors which gave force to the irresistible impulse were related to his identification with his father, his intense attachment to man (Leon Cook, the President), his love for the President, his tremendous inferiority feelings and inner (unconscious) sense of failure which erupted through the ego at the time of the murder.
- II. At the moment of the shooting, the act was automatic, instinctive, a total physiological act in line with his unstable personality, defensiveness, reliance on physical aggression to buoy up his self-esteem.
- III. This man shows signs of slight but definite paranoid elements in his make-up. This comes out with his whole behavior in Dallas the last ten years, which he covered up by being aggressive, talkative and over-active.
- IV. He is basically an extremely unstable man.

#### FINAL EVALUATION

This is an aggressive psychopath with definite anti-social feelings. He suffered an episodic Psychosis at the time of the crime: it was of a Depressive type. His act was in response to an Irresistible Impulse. The emotions behind this Irresistible Impulse have been described above.

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The erruptions of violent emotions disrupted his ego to the point that his knowledge of right and wrong were obliterated at the time of the crime. He suffered from a Fugue State during which he did not know the nature and quality of his act.

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